

*Adjournment Debate*

On this side of the House, Liberal members from the Province of Quebec, from the Montreal area, are very concerned about what is happening in Montreal, Mr. Speaker.

It is easy for the government to rise every day and say the recession is over. Yet, each and every day, thousands of workers are losing their jobs.

That is a very telling example, especially since the Minister of Finance is saying the recession is over. I am not the one making this allegation, it appeared in the September 11 issue of *La Presse*, where it read: Housing Starts Dropped by 40 per cent in the Montreal Area. We all know the construction business, especially residential construction, is the motor of our economy, because it immediately provides jobs to workers. How can you say the recession is over when 40 per cent of all housing starts, and I am not talking here about sales, because this government tells us housing sales are up. Of course, we are selling old houses, there is speculation, and so on. But a 40 per cent drop in housing starts in August only is terrible and is not helping Montreal at all.

Here is another article published on September 18: "The East of Montreal is agonizing—10,000 more unemployed than in 1986". However, the government is still boasting that it's all the fault of the Liberals, that it is all the making of the bad Liberals. Look at the numbers: 10,000 more unemployed than in 1986. And we have a Conservative government since 1984. Texaco, 380 jobs lost; BP, 226; Esso, 500; Gulf, 450; Biscuits David, 437.

Here, I am hearing voices, Mr. Speaker, this is the voice of the hon. member for Mercier who was supposed to protect the only refinery left in the East of Montreal, if I remember correctly, in 1985-86. Maybe she should read what she said at the time, instead of shouting in the wilderness. Steinberg, 591; Daoust-Lalonde, 211; Vickers, 380; Kemtek, 250; and the last one, Mr. Speaker, Angus, 900 jobs. This was last week.

You seem to be telling me that my time is nearly up, so I will just read a few more articles: "Job stagnation in Montreal until to 1995". Yes 1995, Mr. Speaker, and we are in 1991. So, where is the economic recovery for Montreal?

Here is another one, dated September 10 in the *Journal de Montréal* "Nobody cares about Montreal", Mr. Speaker. And finally, last week, and I will conclude on

that, some people in Quebec met to find a solution. Quebec leaders, under the chairmanship of the *Conseil du patronat du Québec*, found 48 projects and the only thing they asked the government for, Mr. Speaker, and I will end on that, was to have the dollar at 80 cents, but the government keeps saying that we should let the dollar rise every day.

**Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship):** Mr. Speaker, I also would like to answer my friend and colleague on the economic revival of Montreal and I would like to draw the attention of the member for Saint-Léonard on an event that I attended yesterday in Montreal. He forgot to mention the newspaper clippings that said: "Merck Frosst opens a new research centre in Kirkland".

The president of this multinational thanked this government, this minister, who is even from Alberta, for having worked on bill C-22, but not you who, again, jammed this bill with your Liberal senators with the exception, I must admit, of the member from Saint-Denis who was with us.

I was present at this inaugural, Mr. Speaker, and I have never seen anything like that: 4 500 people from research and technology under a tent.

I must admit that it was a large tent. It was a big event.

Mr. Speaker, the prime minister is the minister responsible for Montreal and the research centre and I can tell you also that there were not many Liberals, not even one of them, because it was Bill C-22 and the Speaker remembers it.

So, the President congratulated us, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell you that the largest research center in Canada will now be in Quebec, in the Montreal area. It will not be difficult to find. It will create 300 new quality jobs in Montreal, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress the fact that yesterday's ceremony was the concrete result of Bill C-22. We, on this side, strived to make of this bill an extraordinary piece of legislation, whereas the Liberals did everything they could to prevent it from passing, to make Montreal suffer. They were the ones who made the most ridiculous arguments. Mr. Speaker, they went as far as predicting the worst catastrophes for the Canadian pharmaceutical industry and for consumers.